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J.C.S. 1907/259

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4 March 1960

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 9/10/04
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DECISION ON J.C.S. 1907/259

A Memorandum by the Director, Joint Staff

on

RESUMPTION OF HIGH ALTITUDE FLIGHTS IN BERLIN CORRIDOR (S)

Note by the Secretaries

1. At their meeting on 4 March 1960, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after making amendments, approved the recommendations in paragraph 3 of J.C.S. 1907/259.
2. Holders are requested to substitute the attached revised page 1681, incorporating the amendments, and to destroy the superseded page by burning.
3. The memorandum in the Enclosure was forwarded as JCSM-84-60, dated 4 March 1960, to the Secretary of Defense.
4. In that the Commandant had expressed direct concern of the Marine Corps in this matter, the provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code 141 (c), applied and were followed.
5. This decision now becomes a part of and shall be attached

as the top sheet of J.C.S. 1907/259.

NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION DATE 13 Oct 72
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Gen. Messinger (JMAAD)

3 March 1960

Pages 1679 - 1681, incl.

MEMORANDUM BY THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

for the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

RESUMPTION OF HIGH ALTITUDE FLIGHTS IN BERLIN CORRIDOR (S)

Reference: J.C.S. 1907/258 - 9172 Sub'n / 9172 (S)

1. Problem. To provide the Secretary of Defense with the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the resumption of high altitude flights in the Berlin corridor following consideration of USCINCEUR's recommendations.

2. Information.

a. On 24 February 1960, the Joint Chiefs of Staff forwarded a memorandum* on the above subject to the Secretary of Defense requesting that he secure the necessary approval of a warning message** prior to its dispatch by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to USCINCEUR.

b. At a meeting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 29 February 1960, the Deputy Secretary of Defense requested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff forward promptly an expression of their views on this subject following consideration of recommendations by USCINCEUR.

* Appendix to J.C.S. 1907/258

** Annex to J.C.S. 1907/258

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JCS 1907/259

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1679

ENCLOSURE

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington 25, D.C.

JCSM-84-60
4 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Resumption of High Altitude Flights in the
Berlin Corridor (S)

References: a. Embassy Bonn Message* to Secretary of State
No. 1580, dated 18 February 1960
b. Buenos Aires Message* to Secretary of State,
No. SECTO 11, dated 26 February 1960
c. Attachment to Memorandum** to Secretary of
Defense from JCS, dated 24 February 1960

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have noted the tripartite agreement with our Allies (reference a) and the decision (reference b) on this subject and are prepared to resume high altitude flights into Berlin.

2. In this connection, the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that this is primarily a cold war tactic, under the present circumstances, and that the military requirements for these flights are secondary.

3. If the flights are resumed, the military contingencies as outlined in the proposed warning message to USCINCEUR (reference c) might result. In the event an aircraft is damaged or destroyed by Soviet or GDR aircraft or ground fire, a logical follow-on would be to dispatch a subsequent aircraft at altitude to Berlin with fighter escort.

4. It is recommended that you approve the dispatch of the warning message to USCINCEUR as outlined in reference c. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are prepared to issue appropriate execution orders to initiate these flights when you so direct.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

/s/ THOMAS D. WHITE,
Chief of Staff, United States Air Force.

* On file in Joint Secretariat
** Appendix to J.C.S. 1907/258

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Enclosure

(Page revised 4 March 1960)

c. On 29 February 1960, the Joint Chiefs of Staff requested* the comments of USCINCEUR on the advisability, desirability and military necessity for conducting C-130 flights into and out of Berlin above 10,000 feet.

d. On 2 March 1960, USCINCEUR stated** that although such flights were not required for purely military reasons at this time, from the over-all policy standpoint it is desirable to initiate such operations in the Berlin corridor within the near future.

3. Recommended Action.

a. It is recommended that the Joint Chiefs of Staff forward the enclosed memorandum, which contains an expression of their views following consideration of recommendations by USCINCEUR, to the Secretary of Defense.

b. It is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be forwarded to commanders of unified or specified commands.

c. In consonance with the provisions of J.C.S. Memorandum of Policy No. 83, it is recommended that copies of this paper NOT be forwarded to U.S. officers in NATO activities.

- ✓ * JCS message to USCINCEUR, DTG 292328Z February 1960; on file in Joint Secretariat 9172 Berlin/9010(59)
- ✓ ** USCINCEUR message to Joint Chiefs of Staff, No. EC 9-10169, DTG 021710Z March 1960 (DAIN 288669); on file in Joint Secretariat. 9172 Berlin/9010(59)

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